

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**CHRIST the KING SUNDAY**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 100)*

One: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth!  
Serve the Lord with gladness!

**All: Come into the presence of the Lord with singing!**

One: Know that the Lord is God,  
who made us, and to whom we belong.

**All: We are God's people,  
and the sheep of God's pasture.**

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,  
and the courts of the Lord with praise.

**All: Give thanks to God, bless the name of the Lord.**

One: For the Lord is good,  
everlasting in steadfast love,  
faithful generation after generation.

**All: Come, let us worship the Lord!**

**OPENING HYMN** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" GtG 268

One: Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;

**All: hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own!**

One: Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,

**All: and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.**

One: Crown him the Lord of love;

**All: behold his hands and side,**

One: rich wounds, yet visible above,

**All: in beauty glorified:**

One: no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,

**All: but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.**

One: Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,

**All: absorbed in prayer and praise.**

One: His reign shall know no end;

**All: and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.**

One: Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time;

**All: creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.**

One: All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For thou hast died for me;

**All: thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.**

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#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O Lord our God, we confess  
that we are not ready for your holy realm.  
You guide us toward right paths,  
but we refuse to follow where you lead.  
You love and feed and care for us,  
but we fail to love and serve others.  
Forgive our self-concern that shuts out others and cuts us off from you.  
Forgive us, merciful God,  
that we may return to your fold  
and rejoice in your presence;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the Lamb upon the throne. Amen.**

#### **SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One:           However long we wander,  
                  however far we stray,  
                  God's steadfast love endures forever.  
                  Sisters and brothers, be assured:  
                  in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**All:           Thanks be to God!**

## **THE PEACE**

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

*(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)*

## **THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24  
Matthew 25:31-46  
Ephesians 1:15-23

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON** "Shepherd Monarch" by Pastor Bill Vincent

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

*(from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Pastor:** Lord, in your mercy...

**People:** ...hear our prayer.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Contemporary)*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**Almighty God,  
we give you thanks and praise for your love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Accept the offering of our lives in union with Christ's offering for us.  
Confirm in us his work and his vision  
that we may testify to the sovereignty of his love  
and honor his presence in all people.  
In his name we pray.  
Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**CLOSING HYMN** "The Church of Christ in Every Age" GtG 320

**One:** The church of Christ in every age,  
beset by change but Spirit-led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.

**All:** **Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.**

**One:** Then let the servant church arise,  
**All:** **a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**One:** For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,

**All: and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.**

One: We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord:

**All: to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread Christ's liberating word.**

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### **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: We will share God's compassion for all.

**All: We will join God's work for justice.**

One: God sends us to all who need our help.

**All: Christ meets us, in them, as gifts are shared.**

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
May God who seeks the lost keep you;  
may God who brings back the wandering heart  
uphold you;  
may God who binds up the injured heal you;  
may God who strengthens the weak empower you,  
now and forever.

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...

**All: ...Amen.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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